

TRANSFORMATION JOINT



Master Sgt. Robert Valenca / JCCC

Airmen from the 729th Air Control Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah, set up radar equipment at a simulated deployed location on Indian Springs Auxiliary Air Field, Nev. The 729th is the senior element in the air control system and is the catalyst for communications between the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and the aircraft putting bombs on target.

By Staff Sgt. Angel Casaigne Jr.

Joint Red Flag Joint Information Bureau

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — One of the nation's largest integrated exercises involving live and virtual simulations took place at locations throughout the United States.

Joint Red Flag is a training exercise for U.S. military and coalition forces to enhance operational effectiveness, exercise officials said.

More than 10,000 people participated in the exercise, primarily at Kirtland AFB, N.M.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; Hurlburt Field, Fla.; and here. A key to the success of the exercise is integrating the live, virtual and constructive aspects under one umbrella.

"The tasks of combining all live, virtual and constructive forces, saving lives and creating a computer-simulated battle plan distributed to sites all across the country is going great," said Lt. Col. James Murray, 12th Air Force project officer. "This is as good as we could have expected at this point."

Live training refers to people and aircraft actually performing an exercise mission, Colonel Murray said.

Virtual training refers to crews participating in the exercise by using simulators at various locations.

Constructive forces, he said, are computer-aided simulations controlling a wider span of forces which play out much

like a person sitting at a computer playing a video game.

"During the exercise, we have (about) 350 to 400 live joint and coalition sorties each day," Colonel Murray said. "That isn't really out of the norm; however, when you combine that with the more than 600 to 700 constructive sorties and 850 virtual sorties we're flying, it's very busy."

Lt. Col. Mark Horn, commander of the 505th Exercise Control Squadron at Hurlburt Field, said "Joint Red Flag is one of the largest and most complex modeling and simulation architectures created to date. **The exercise successfully linked 31 distributed sites, incorporating 34 constructive simulations, and more than 18 virtual simulations and weapons tactics trainers.** This is a great undertaking and accomplishment that we are all proud of."

This exercise is an example how the Air Force is transforming and of how integrated it's becoming with its coalition partners.

Colonel Murray added, "For the first time ever, we're developing a coalition information system and network to move more information to all participants in a theater of operation. **Information is a critical asset in any combined air and space operations center. It dramatically reduces the possibility of future friendly fire incidents, allowing our brave men and women to fight another day.** This training is an intricate part of what the military will be using in the future to save lives."

RED FLAG



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Gruenwald / JCCC

Tech. Sgt. Margie Fields, senior offensive duty technician, and Capt. Jin Matthey, defensive duty officer, review technical mapping scenarios in the Combined Air and Space Operations Center at Nellis AFB, Nev., during Joint Red Flag. Both Airmen are based at the 710th Combat Operations Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.

EXERCISE BRINGS BIG PICTURE TOGETHER